



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

*STATE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY ADVISORY BOARD (STBIAB)*

*MEETING MINUTES*

*DATE: July 20, 2017*

*Present:* Albert Burian, Rita Manriquez, Lila Ota, Stephanie Yee, Lisa Dau, Cora Speck, Mary Wilson  
*Excused:* William Rodrigues, Kawena Young  
*Others:* Lyna Burian, Brain Injury Association of Hawaii (BLA); Violet Horvath, Director of Pacific Disabilities Center (PDC); Howard Lesser, Hawaii Disability Rights Center (HDRC)  
*DOH Staff:* Curtis Inouye, Neurotrauma Supports; Chelsea Ko, Neurotrauma Supports; Cristina Valenzuela, Neurotrauma Supports

- I. Call to Order* – Meeting was called to order by DOH Staff Curtis Inouye. *Quorum present.*
- II. Approval of Minutes from the May 18, 2017 meeting* – Board Member Stephanie Yee made a motion to accept the Minutes as written. Board Member Lila Ota seconded the motion. All Board Members present voted in favor of minutes being accepted as written. No questions or discussions.
- III. Review of Agenda* – Howard Lesser of HDRC requested to include an update on Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) No. 105 on the agenda. All Board Members present voted in favor of accepting the agenda with the included agenda item.

*IV. New Business*

*A. Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Awareness Month*

DOH Staff, Cristina Valenzuela, recommended a TBI project that has brought recognition and awareness to traumatic brain injury nationwide. The project started at Hinds' Feet Farm in North Carolina, the *Unmasking Brain Injury* project features cardboard face masks created by TBI survivors, which have been displayed throughout the community at

*different cities. The project serves as a way for survivors to advocate for themselves and share personal, life-changing experiences with the public. The project is recognized in 29-states and 3-countries educating the community and increasing awareness on TBI.*

*The STBLAB agreed to feature the Unmasking Brain Injury Project during the TBI Awareness Month. The following ideas were suggested during discussion:*

- *Tap into resources available through the Rehab Hospital day program; artists and supplies*
- *Project can start off with a small amount of masks, to expand throughout the year*
- *Funding for materials may be requested through the Neurotrauma funds*
- *Artist participants should be limited to TBI survivors*
- *Brain Injury Awareness (BLA) to introduce the project during the Saturday meetings*

*The Neurotrauma Supports staff will present a report on the logistics of the project during the next STBLAB meeting in September*

**B. Annual Joint Advisory Board Meeting**

*The STBLAB has agreed to participate in an annual joint advisory board meeting with the State Neurotrauma Advisory Board (NTAB). The meeting is tentatively set for the month of January, 2018 and will feature guest speakers, lunch, and training. A drafted agenda will be emailed out to all members.*

*The following ideas were suggested during discussion:*

- *Cora Speck, of Queen's Medical Center, suggested a joint service project during the week of the annual joint board meeting*
- *Per Howard Lesser of the Hawaii Disability Rights Center, the Palolo Lion's Club is always looking for projects and a means to give back to the community.*  
*Also, his place of residence allows for the use of their large meeting room, if needed. An event may be held between the hours of 8-3:30 pm or from 3-9:00 pm with free parking for the duration of the meeting*

**C. Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 105**

*The Senate concurrent resolution 105 bill was passed, requiring an auditor to assess the cost of and need for cognitive re-training and cognitive rehabilitation services for TBI survivors. The state audit found these services are covered under medical insurance providers such as HMSA, Kaiser, and Medicare/Medicaid.*

*Several concerns were discussed:*

- *Are these services really being provided?*
- *Cognitive rehabilitation is currently listed under speech therapy; insurers do not mention what it actually covers*
- *What type of strategies can be put in place to let the public know about these available services?*
- *Are people finding it difficult to access the services?*

*Louis Ertesbik, of Hawaii Disability Rights Center, has contacted the Rehab Hospital and HMSA to further investigate these issues. The last study of this nature was done in 2004.*

## **V. Old Business**

### **A. 2017 STBLAB Goals**

- 1. Continue the educational campaign to bring awareness out to the public*
- 2. Research TBI goals practiced on a national level*

### **B. Pacific Disabilities Center (PDC)-Hawaii Neurotrauma Registry (HNTR) Update:**

*(Highlighted points from HNTR Summary Report, as given by Ms. Violet Horvath of PDC)*

- There are currently 202 unique individuals in the registry.*
- HNTR contract has been extended through December 19, 2017.*
- All information for Contract Year 4 has been entered. A data analysis will begin in the next couple of weeks. A report on the findings will be presented in an upcoming meeting.*
- DOH Neurotrauma Supports staff and HNTR staff now have a shared online calendar to help keep each other informed of public events, presentations, and other pertinent happenings. Both organizations are also working together more on community education and outreach.*
- Work on the July 2017 HNTR newsletter is nearly complete. The latest edition will be launched soon.*
- Due to the length of time it takes to complete the HNTR survey, a new process has been added to the Information and Referral component that would allow participants to complete a shorter version of the survey.*

### **C. Neighbor Island TBI Activities:**

*No new updates*

### **D. DOH Update:**

- 1. TBI Brochure: The TBI brochure is currently available for distribution. Please contact Neurotrauma Supports if more brochures are needed*
- 2. Neurotrauma Strategic Plan: The Neurotrauma Strategic Plan has been finalized. A committee will be formed to focus on a plan to achieving its goals.*
- 3. STBLAB Co-chair/Vice Chair: The seat of vice chairperson is currently open to individuals who might be interested in the position. Nominations may also be emailed to Neurotrauma Supports*

## **VI. Announcements**

### **A. Brain Injury Association of Hawaii (BIA):**

#### **1) Support Group and Educational Meetings**

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- a. *First Saturdays, 1-3 p.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays, 6-8p.m., Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific, Wo  
Conference Room #4.*

***VII. Next Meeting:***

*Date: September 21, 2017*

*Location: Kalanimoku VCC and Neighbor Island Sites*

*Time: 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

*Meeting Adjourned at 3:40 p.m.*